OFFICE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS

MISSION

This Office supports the Director of Science in providing effective planning, funding, and management of the Nuclear Physics (NP) research programs whose goal is to understand the fundamental nature of atomic nuclei and nuclear matter and the basic forces involved; assists in the establishment of research policies for these areas of basic science and funds meritorious research programs at Federal laboratories, universities and industrial institutions; provides scientific and technical knowledge needed to develop energy technology options and transfers to technology programs those research projects which show high promise of becoming important as energy technology; develops and executes management procedures to ensure that the Nation's nuclear physics facilities are operated efficiently and reliably to meet the research needs of the near future and to ensure that new or upgraded facilities are designed and constructed as needed for the longer range health and vitality of these fields; supports negotiations on Department of Energy's participation in international activities and pursues international collaboration in all phases of nuclear physics to ensure optimal utilization of the program resources; and plans and coordinates the overall content and future directions of the Nuclear Physics programs, including development and implementation of NP portions of departmental strategic plans. In carrying out this mission, the Office will interface with other Federal agencies having NP programs (e.g., National Science Foundation) and ensure compliance with Department of Energy, Federal and/or State policies and regulations on safeguards and security, emergency preparedness, quality assurance, and environment, health and safety at nuclear physics facilities.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Office of Nuclear Physics

FUNCTIONS

Office of Nuclear Physics

1. Has lead responsibility for Federal support of nuclear physics research and support of fundamental research activities under the mandate provided in Public Law 95-91 which established the Department.

2. Establishes and implements research policies for the Office of Science and the Department for the Nuclear Physics program, ensuring that a position of technological competitiveness and close liaison and coordination with other Federal agencies involved in NP programs is maintained.

3. Develops strategic and long-range plans, and formulates and justifies Nuclear Physics program budgets. Assists in the defense of Nuclear Physics budget requests through DOE, OMB, and Congressional committees.

4. Allocates resources and provides overall management direction for the Nuclear Physics

program conducted at universities and Federal laboratories. Receives and evaluates proposals for scientific and technical merit, conducts peer review assessments, makes site visits and participates in technical meetings to obtain an adequate data base for funding. Monitors their performance through site visits and reviews, participating in laboratory meetings and receiving periodic status reports.

5. In coordination with other departmental offices, provides supervision of major new construction and equipment projects in the Nuclear Physics program, including responsibility for ensuring management practices consistent with DOE, Federal and/or State policies and regulations on safeguards and security, emergency preparedness, quality assurance, and environment, health and safety**.**

6. Monitors the performance of the operating accelerator facilities through an annual formal site visit and review and other assessment methods; and ensures management practices consistent with DOE, Federal and/or State policies and regulations on safeguards and security, emergency preparedness, quality assurance, and environment, health and safety at nuclear physics facilities.

7. Assists in the worldwide coordination of nuclear data compilation activities, working with the United States Nuclear Data Network and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Participates in the development and implementation of international cooperative agreements which affect the Nuclear Physics program.

8. Assesses and determines the scientific needs and priorities of nuclear physics with advice from the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC) and other sources. Maintains close liaison with the National Science Foundation (NSF) on the national Nuclear Physics program to ensure a balanced and viable program. Provides administrative support for the NSAC on a rotating basis with the National Science Foundation.

9. Keeps fully informed on the status of knowledge and research efforts in the areas of nuclear data, nuclear physics, and nuclear accelerator technology on a national and international basis. Provides a resource of scientific and technical expertise in these areas for other DOE and Federal programs and communicates technical and scientific program advances.

10. Ensures compliance with, and implementation of, management practices consistent with DOE, Federal, and/or State policies and regulations on safeguards and security, emergency preparedness, quality assurance, and environment, health and safety at nuclear physics facilities.

11. Fosters performance of Nuclear Physics activities to meet national objectives, including training of young scientists, public education, technology transfer, and diversity in the workforce.